

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending. Claims 1-5 and 8-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,617,540 to Civanlar et al. (“Civanlar”). Claims 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Civanlar in view of Ogwa, et al., U.S. Patent 5,715,397 (“Ogwa”).

Applicants thank the Examiner for the detailed Office Action and associated Remarks. In the Remarks, the Examiner notes that the presently pending claims may not precisely recite how busy one server is in relation to other servers (pg. 9). As a result, Applicants have removed the presently pending claims 1-19 from the instant case and have added newly-presented claims 20-38. Applicants respectfully do not acquiesce in the instant rejections and reserve the right to pursue the cancelled claims in a continuation application if desired. However, to move the case to allowance, newly-presented claims 20-38 have been crafted to address the Examiner’s concerns.

Independent claims 20, 25, 30, and 35 more particularly point out and distinctly claim that it is the first machine in the array to respond to a connection request that ultimately services the connection. The independent claims also more particularly point out the relationship of the virtual hosts of the firewall machine, and the functionality of the virtual hosts in interfacing the firewall machine between the public and private networks. Support for these limitations can be found in Figure 4, its associated detailed description, and throughout the specification.

Independent claims 30 and 35, as well as dependent claims 23 and 28 also provide for HTML-based configuration functionality allowing for the remote configuration of a master configuration file over a public network.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Civanlar nor Ogwa, separately or in combination, teach or suggest the limitations of the newly-presented claims. It is

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respectfully requested that the instant application be reconsidered in view of the  
Amendment and Remarks contained herein and the instant case be allowed.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this application or this response, the  
Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at 775-586-9500.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Dated: May 11, 2006 /timothy a. brisson/

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